

WORKER'S JOURNAL

By CHARLES DENBY

Strike Erupts at Motor Products

The unrest among workers against management and the union leaders continues, mainly over the disagreement on the contract and working conditions. Several days ago, a strike in Motor Products Corp. broke out over the speed-up.

As some workers said, they have seen so many workers in other plants walking off their jobs so unanimously together, that they set up their picket line and it appeared that 80 per cent of the workers joined in to stop the next shift.

UNION LEADERS AS STRIKE-BREAKERS

When the second shift arrived, the police, the company officials and the union leaders were all there asking the second shift workers to come through the picket line. These workers bluntly refused and many joined the picket line themselves. They said the cause of the strike was that the company had discharged seven or eight workers for refusing to be speeded-up. Among those fired were two or three stewards and a committeeman.

The role of the union leaders on the side of the company in trying to insist on workers coming through the picket line makes clearer day by day how far the leaders are away from the ranks.

The hate and resentment of the workers toward these leaders mounts every day and every hour. The leaders' objective is to discipline the workers for themselves and for the company. They only want the relation of workers with them when they are forced to try to make a few economic gains.

"OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL"

When it comes to working conditions and shop grievances, when it comes to the daily conflict in a worker's life, these leaders want to be as far away as the North Pole is from the South Pole. These are some of the main factors that have divided the union leader from the ranks and are gradually building a wall of hate between them that some day is going to be knocked down.

As a worker said, "It will not be easy because all the forces of reaction against the worker are on the other side of the wall with the union leaders." But he felt that the united force of the worker can push it on all of them and release this stranglehold on us that has plagued us so severely for such a long time.

These strikes in so many different auto shops in such a short space of time leaves no doubt in anyone's mind of the uncomfortable position workers are in.

For some time workers have had this restless feeling, but it is only recently, since the signing of the contract, that they have begun to revolt openly against their leaders everywhere all over the place.

When the workers combine these strike actions, which the union and the companies are afraid they will, the breaking-up and wrecking of this wall will be in sight for them.

CONFUSING THE ISSUE

Several years ago the union leaders were able to confuse the issue by labeling legitimate resentment as Communist led or Communist inspired. Today the Communist line is in support of the union leaders.

Today, strikers are being called "revolters," workers who are refusing to listen to and follow the dictates of their leaders. The only thing these leaders want is for workers to accept their economic patch and vote for the political party or candidate of their choosing, mainly a Democratic candidate. That isn't the worker's main concern.

The worker's main concern is his every day life; his day to day existence; his problems at work; the pace he is forced to work. He feels that these have been completely ignored by the union leaders and sold to the company for the economic patch and the GAW.

REACHING A NEW LOW

The way they have settled the wildcat at Motor Products is a new low. The company and union agreed that the fired men should be reinstated but not at their old position. Some of the men have 10 and 15 years seniority. There were some stewards and a committeeman among them who were fired for protesting the speed-up. Not only does the company object to such workers, the union in agreeing proves it doesn't want any representatives around who will fight the workers' grievances on the line.

The men at Motor Products are as angry as they can be over the settlement agreed to by the union. They are threatening to walk out again.

The Terrible Shame of America

The kidnap-lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi and the acquittal of the two white men in the trial that followed, have thrust the shame of America nakedly before the world.

Some of those who today cry out in indignation at the inhuman slaying of Emmett Till, only a few months ago were hailing the betterment of race relations through the law and especially through the Supreme Court decision on desegregation.

Chief among these were Congressmen Adam Clayton Powell and Charles Diggs, Jr., and NAACP lawyer Thurgood Marshall.

Congressman Diggs addressed a mass meeting in Detroit on September 25. He came to report on the Mississippi trial which he had attended as an "observer." Thousands of people thronged to hear him. Among all the packed thousands there was only a handful of whites.

SHAME OF THE NEGRO LEADERS

Diggs said he was sick at what he had seen in Mississippi. He said there was one bright spot, however, the Judge had conducted the trial

fairly. As one Negro in the audience later told NEWS & LETTERS, "Any card sharp or con man will make his game look fair and honest to those who are in the game with him and to the audience that are around."

This business of fairness has been repeated in many quarters with the statement that the wealthy educated class of Southerners want to be fair because that is the only way they can keep their system going. It is their system that has allowed and encouraged inhuman treatment against Negroes.

There are whites in the South who sharply disagree with this inhuman attitude and brutal way of murdering human beings. NEWS & LETTERS has written about

that during the strikes in the South last summer (July 8). "In the recent telephone and railroad strikes," we reported, "white workers established new relations with Negroes while showing a hostile relation against the company. . . . The official Southern leaders are making an all out effort to clamp down the lid not alone on the Negroes but on the working people as a whole."

SHAME OF THE WHITES

Some whites, even in Mississippi, were aghast at what was happening. To bring them back to the "white side," during the Till case, the white woman behind this terrible crime tried to give the impression, at the last day of testimony, that there was really an attempted rape. A grown woman and a 14-year-old boy. The judge acted "fairly," he wouldn't let the jury hear this testimony. What difference did that make? Their minds were made up. This testimony wasn't for the jury but for the whole world. The Northern papers as well as the Southern papers picked that up and kept repeating that she was an attractive white woman and a young mother. What difference does it make that she was attractive? She could have been the ugliest woman in the world and it wouldn't have made any difference.

Two Negroes who were supposed to have seen the crime committed were not called to testify for the prosecution. They were in jail in a neighboring county. They could have been called if it was a question of "fairness." Underneath it all is the treatment of Negroes as less than human.

It has been said that this killing helps the Kremlin. But the Negro people aren't thinking of international politics. They are thinking of the life of a human being. They see this government spending millions of dollars supposedly fighting Communist barbarism, but here at home they stand by and let these things happen and don't do anything about it.

SHAME OF THE LIBERALS

Diggs did arouse the feeling of everyone, judging from the applause, when he said that we're getting tired of leading whites in the North of both parties slapping us on the back and giving us a smile at election

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A DOCTOR SPEAKS

BY M.D.

'WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?'

Recently, I performed surgery on the hemorrhoids of an elderly patient. Ordinarily, the history of a case of piles is not very interesting, but this one was different. For over 25 years, a man with hemorrhoids—both painful and bleeding—had lost time from work and sleep and had spent hundreds of dollars on medicine. However, in spite of the frequently recurring periods of misery, he continued to accept wretchedness rather than take the advice of several doctors that his hemorrhoids were of the kind that could only be treated by surgery.

TWO REASONS TO ACT

There may seem to be many reasons that lead people to take decisive action, but essentially there are only two. The first is the existence of a necessity for a change. The second is being able to see an opening, a movement and a direction for this change.

Sometimes the need for a change is so urgent, so overwhelming, that the pressure of the crisis forces movement and direction and creates an opening. This is what takes place when emergency surgery is performed as a life-saving measure. This is what occurs when a social revolution bursts out as living conditions become intolerable. The choice then lies between a violent upheaval or death.

A major crisis, however, either within the body of a single individual or within the social body of a nation, is not an every day occurrence. But a great deal of elective surgery—surgery entered into by choice—is done daily. Operations on the gall-bladder, varicose veins and on ruptures, continually change the form and function of parts of the body; and it is obvious that people reach decisions and act.

DECISION FOR CHANGE

The decision for change in one person's body or in society as a whole, no matter how necessary, does not suddenly burst forth full grown and in one piece. The beginning may be just a ripple and even seem insignificant. But over a period of time, a movement very much like a chemical reaction takes place in which one unit sets off another.

The important thing, it seems to me, is the realization by the individual that out of the fact that he cannot live at peace or feel at home in his present situation, there is forming the movement and direction for a change. It is not something introduced from the human being's recognition of his own importance.

The patient told me this: One day, he went on a trip away from the comforts of home and the corner drug store. He found himself without pain-killers, soothing suppositories and hot baths. It was then he had a good look at himself. It was then too that he met another person who had had his hemorrhoids removed and had survived. Forces that had been at work within him finally jelled and he did what he had to.

Experiences and Expectations

Massachusetts—The strikes and struggles in the labor movement today are a lot different than I remember them from the early days of the 1930's in the shoe and leather industry in New England.

Goats are pretty smelly creatures in the field. When you have to handle goat hides that have been salted down and shipped in the hold of a ship from Greece or Turkey, you really know what bad smells are like.

The work consisted of sorting these hides by hand, putting them in the lime pits to soak to remove the flesh and hair, then pulling them out to be scraped and made ready for tanning. Only a cast iron stomach could stand the work.

If the hides soaked in the lime too long, the lime would consume them. This fact established the best time to call a strike in the industry. An employer with \$150,000 worth of hides soaking is in no position to carry on long negotiations. He fought with the venom that showed no mercy to the strikers. Men were killed by armed deputies and women felt the nightsticks of the police on their skulls.

The employers hired strike-breakers from out of town, ran them through the picket lines in cars and trucks. The city provided plenty of police protection for the scabs.

The picket lines were always mass picket lines, the ranks filled by strong men armed with knives, clubs and rocks. Their women, who were employed in the industry as ironers or finishers of the leather, were no weaklings. They came to the picket line wearing aprons, which they filled with rocks and dumped in piles at the curb for the men. They manned the soup kitchens at the union hall. They were a vital part of the union struggle.

I recall one strike where the union had been served with an injunction against picketing. The place was surrounded by cops. Sterner measures were needed. The only way to win was to outnumber the cops. Next morning a mass picket line was in force. Each picket had his sign nailed to a baseball bat for a handle. The mass of baseball bats in the hands of these men was sufficient to discourage the cops from using their nightsticks to break up the line. The strikers won that one.

COAL AND ITS PEOPLE

Automation Comes to Coal Mines

Morgantown, W. Va. — In the early hand-loading days of coal mining, the individual miner was a skilled, scientific worker. The miner worked both physically and mentally to produce the coal. He set up every phase of production and carried it out. This required great knowledge of the tools he worked with and of the nature of the conditions under which he worked. Since there was one boss for about 50 men working on a section, he was left pretty much on his own.

There are still small mines where the hand-loading system is practiced, but these mines are the exception.

PRODUCTION REORGANIZED

It has always been the goal of mine operators to approach, as nearly as possible, the belt line method of production as practiced in other industries. The result has been the increased mechanization of the mines.

Not only does this increase production, but fewer men are required to produce the coal.

The introduction of the loading machine reorganized coal production. The introduction of trackless machinery in the last five years reorganized it further. With these changes, however, the production cycle remained basically the same. The top was timbered (or pinned) to be made safe from falls; then the coal was cut, shot and loaded out. All of these were separate operations and a section generally required some 15 men.

The machines produced another effect, that of special-

ization. Whereas before a miner performed all operations in the productive process, he was now assigned to do but one task. This he did for the entire shift, week in and week out. The older men were given jobs that did not involve the handling of machines. This was generally left to the younger ones who would be more adaptable to learning the newer methods. Since there was no seniority in the mining industry, the company was free to choose anyone of its employees to handle machine jobs.

BUTTONS AND LEVERS

With each increase in technological development, there was a corresponding decrease in the use of the miner as a thinking human being. Insofar as the mine operator was concerned, the miner became more and more just another necessary part of the machine that would push buttons and pull levers. The machine kept increasing its domination over the man. This domination was felt not only in terms of the actual work that the miner did. It was also reflected in the attitude of the company in terms of the "value" of the machine over the man. A common expression among miners is, "The company doesn't give a damn about the men. All they're worried about is the coal and the machines. If a man gets covered up they can always get another one. But a machine, that's different. To hell with the men, save the machine."

SUPERVISION PRESSURE

Where there were several operations involved in the production cycle, the man

had a chance for a break once in a while. He could work rapidly for a while and get caught up with the machine in front of him. He could then rest until the man in front of him was finished. If the pace became too fast he could slow up. A slow up in any one of the operations could affect all of the others.

THE 'CONTINUOUS MINER'

With the "continuous miner", however, this is all changed. There is but one machine that is involved. It literally tears the coal seam apart and conveys the coal back over the machine boom. All of the men are concentrated around this machine including the pinners who make the top safe. A grand total of six men are on continuous miner section.

With the "continuous miner", there is no such thing as a break. Even when the machine breaks down these men are pushed to do everything possible to get it back into operation as quickly as possible. Tremendous pressure is what characterizes the "continuous miner" section. Here the company has reached its goal — every man can be watched at all times by one boss.

Bitter Fruit

West Virginia—At the Labor Day parade, one old man started talking to me. He was retired for 20 years. He was all crippled up with arthritis. He doesn't even get a pension. You don't get one if you've retired before 1946.

FRUITS OF LABOR

He said he didn't really care—he felt the best thing that ever came out of all their struggles was the Welfare Fund. He and his wife have both had to go to the hospital and the Welfare Fund paid over \$1,500 on them this past year.

He and his wife live on their social security. He wasn't bitter about not getting his pension. He was just glad that others were getting it. But I couldn't help thinking that those older ones were just the ones who should have gotten the first fruits of their labor.

DON'T FOLLOW BLINDLY

John L. did something that wasn't right there. He did plenty of good things, and people had plenty of respect for him. But I believe that his prestige started on the down-grade with that business of the Welfare Fund.

People know when he's doing something good and follow him then. But they don't follow blindly. When you do something that's not right, you can't fool anybody.

—Miner's Wife

(Editor's Note: Approximately two years ago Lew cut off from the Welfare Fund disabled miners and widows who had been receiving benefits. For many of these people, the Welfare Fund meant the difference between life and death.)

Miner's Wives Aren't Strike-Breakers

That woman who tried to lock out her husband to get him to break the strike in Chicago said that he promised to quit the union in order to save their marriage. The way I see it, she didn't have a marriage to start with!

Any woman who would act like that couldn't have his welfare at heart. She must only be after his money, to make a slave out of him. That's no marriage.

No woman wants a strike—or to see her kids suffer. But if you didn't have strikes, we wouldn't have what we have today. If it weren't for strikers and the Miner's Welfare Fund, I'd be a dead woman today. She said her kids needed milk. What did she do for milk when Hoover was in? Was her refrigerator full then? We didn't even have a refrigerator down here.

In '31 and '32 people down here couldn't buy milk even if they were working. You didn't make enough, they had to give it to expectant mothers and to little children. I remember going down and standing in line for my pint.

That woman doesn't know

anything about strikes. She could find out plenty from people around here what striking really means.

We used to have strikes almost every Spring. We did not worry about food then. In the spring of the year all you need is some greens out of the woods and some salt side. We ate green grass with the cattle—and we weren't complaining.

The miners really suffered the most to get the union. They've been the first step for everything. They cleared the way. And the women did plenty down here. One reason there were more women than men on the picket lines in those days was because the women could get away with more than the men could.

My neighbor used to be out first thing every morning, yelling at the scabs. They took her off to jail twice in one day. Every time she got out, she went right back. You could tell when she got out because you could hear her yelling at the scabs.

I don't know what that woman in Chicago thinks other women are like. But somebody should tell her they're not strike-breakers!

—Miner's Wife

LABOR

Workers Have to Buy On Credit

Morgantown, W. Va.—There's a lot of talk about Americans living off of credit, and beyond our means. We sure do. How else can you live?

There are some who say "save your money. Don't buy until you can pay for it. That's a good policy—if you have the money to start with. But see how it works if you don't."

I've been married 30 years. For 30 years we've been waiting to have enough to buy a home of our own. We wanted to go into debt. But if we had, we'd probably have that home by now.

INSECURITY OF MINING

What scares you is the insecurity of working in the mines. You just never know what you're going to have from year to year. The mines work steady for a while, you just get your head above water, and then—bang! a long lay-off. How can you plan or budget on that? That's been our story since I was a kid.

FACTS AND FIGURES

In 1939, my father earned \$2,250. He paid \$30 for rent; \$17 for a suit; 5c for bus fare; 2c for his paper; 10c for a loaf of bread; 5c for a hot dog; 5c for a glass of beer.

Last year, my father earned \$4,500. He paid \$90 for rent; \$45 for a suit; 20c for bus fare; 7c for his paper; 25c for a loaf of bread; 15c for a hot dog; 15c for a glass of beer.

OLD WORKER RESENTS NEWER WORKERS

DETROIT—I started working a few weeks ago in a large shop here. It is a very large place but the union has never been able to get in. They are voted down every time. Most of the people are on production but not the department that I am in.

They started hiring a lot of new girls recently. The department had maybe five and now it has about a hundred. Well those old girls were the most unfriendly people. A few of them wouldn't even say good morning or hello if you were new.

I guess they feel that we might take their jobs away. But I can't understand how they feel that no one else can work there, we need the job or we wouldn't be there.

One new girl asked an old girl a question about the company policy on bumping. Her answer was, "I can't be bumped. I am here 28 years and I can work in any department I want. There used to be just a few of us working here with the men. I don't know why they have to hire all these new girls!"

I don't know why she is worried if she has been there 28 years the company must like her real well since they always get rid of what they call "trouble makers."

THE STRANGLE HOLD

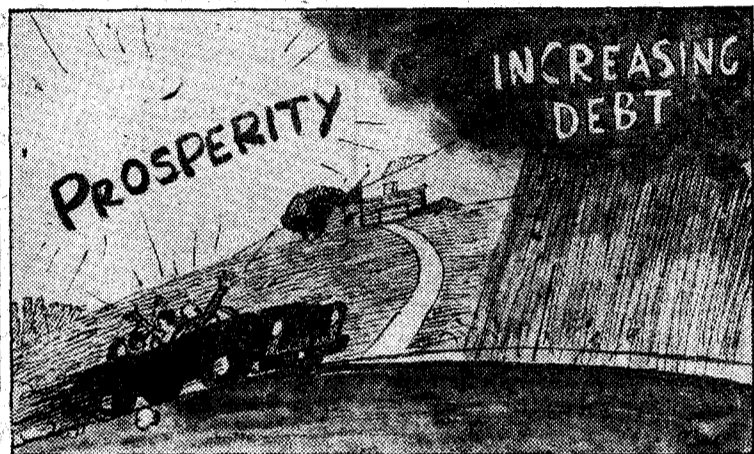
When the mines go down, you still have to eat. You still have to pay your bills. That's how a lot of people get caught up by the company stores. Most people try to avoid buying at the company stores. But if that's the only place you can get credit, you have to. And once you do, you're never out.

There are some families that never see a cent of actual cash from a pay-check. It's all checked off before they draw it. I know of men who want some real money in their hands so bad, they'll buy cigarettes on credit from the store and then sell them

for lots less than they will pay—just to get some real money.

WHO'S UNION?

But what makes you madder than anything is all the money in the union "jackpot." During the lay-offs or strikes, that money should go to the miners, instead of making them go into debt for credit. It's their money. They fought for the union. Some of them died for it. But the union big-shots act like the union is something that just "happened". I didn't just appear on the scene. It has a history. It came from the guys who fought for it. It should belong to them.



Some Workers Cut Their Own Throats

LOS ANGELES—It is certainly true what Jerry Kegg says in her column concerning brainwashing in American factories (NEWS & LETTERS, Sept. 7). How industry takes a few men in the shops and by giving them promises and special privileges attempts to turn them against the rest of the men they work with.

Anyone who has worked in smaller shops, like those in the building trades, knows about this.

SMALL SHOP 'DEALS'

Take a shop I worked in not long ago. It's a typical example. This shop had started up about three years previously. The owner had started with a small amount of money but with big ideas. After he had gotten together what he considered a few "key men," he called them together and told them that the company has a chance to go places if they will cooperate with him. If they do, when the company is better off they will be amply rewarded.

Starting out in business the way he did means he has to bid low and cut corners. He hasn't much leeway. So, cooperating for these men means overlooking violations of the working conditions. It means overtime for straight time pay or time-and-a-half when they should get double time. It means working ten or 15 or 30 minutes past 4:30 to finish a job and then, because the time is only a fraction of an hour to forget to

put in for overtime. Or it means loading up a truck before 8 a.m. It means carrying company tools around in your car instead of letting the company truck bring them out to the job.

ONE-WAY COOPERATION

For this cooperation, these men are supposed to prosper as the company grows. Sometimes this does happen. More often than not it doesn't happen. Then these men learn the hard way that there is no gratitude in business.

That's how my trade, sheet metal, practices brainwashing on its workers. It happens in many shops in this city and in every city I've ever worked in.

It doesn't happen in every shop. Most men just wouldn't stand for it. It's the weak ones that go for it.

After World War I, there were 1,250,000 miners working in British mines. In 1947, there were 750,000 miners. Now, there are 700,000 miners in British mines.

GM Disciplines Strikers! Fires Them While Union Sits & Thinks

By JERRY KEGG

During the recent wildcat strike at the Livonia General Motors plant, the company was busily taking both moving and still pictures of the activity at the plant gate. Photographs were taken not only of the people doing picket duty but also of those just standing around.

It was no secret to the pickets that they were being photographed. Cameras were focused on them from the roof in the parking lot and one of the foremen came to within a few feet of the constantly moving picket line with his camera.

INTIMIDATING WORKERS

This was the situation during the strike. No one knew how the company intended to use the pictures or whether they intended to use them at all. Some felt that the company was just taking the pictures to intimidate the pickets, but no one really knew.

After being back in the plant for a week, word got around through the shop that each foreman was shown the pictures and the people in his department were pointed out to him. A day or so later we found it was true.

Workers by the dozen were called to labor relations to explain their activity during the strike. The photographs were used to prove they were at the plant gate. Actually that was all they proved. The photographers were so anxious to take faces at close-up that the pictures couldn't be used against anyone for walking the picket line. They just showed faces and didn't show where anyone was.

'INTERROGATION ROOM'

The labor relations "office" was referred to as the interrogation room. The workers being interrogated were asked tricky questions to get them to admit they were in favor of the strike. Each was asked if there was anything the company could do to make their jobs easier or more pleasant.

At the end of each "interview" the workers were told they would be informed later of the disposition of the interview. "Later" was only a week—yesterday in fact.

Reprimands were handed out in wholesale quantity. Some were written warnings, but most received 30 days off and 16 were fired. Among them were four union representatives including the committeeman whose department was the first to walk out.

AGAIN IF NECESSARY

The International Union has reared its head—or rather, wagged its tail. They say they want time to think about whether the company was justified in its action.

One of the women involved made this remark while waiting her turn to go to the office:

"Before I do anything, I always weigh the consequences against the situation. Then I decide what I'll do. I walked the picket line and I'll do it again if necessary."

The atmosphere at Livonia is very restless. The workers are very moved and very silent. Nobody knows what they're going to do.

It gave them a peculiar feeling when management called a woman and she left with the foreman and the general foreman. A feeling of not knowing what is going on.

They wouldn't even let her come back to pick up her own belongings. They sent a guard down to pick up her stuff and nobody saw her again.

Nobody wants to say anything. They're very quiet now. The air is tense.

During the cut-back of 1953, 40,000 steel workers were laid off. Now, with steel producing at full capacity, 26,000 steel workers are still unemployed.

Nut Head Says—



"What with automation and technical work and such, you might say we're not factory hands but more like laboratory workers."

A READER FROM ENGLAND WRITES:

Your paper is the only one I know where the workers can express their own views on what they want and the only workers' paper divorced from any political party . . . If there is anything a poor worker like myself can do for your worthy paper please let me know.

—V. T. England

Do Your Friends Read NEWS & LETTERS

EDITORIALS

TWO MOTHERS, TWO SONS, TWO LAWS

The recent kidnapping of Mrs. Marcus' infant son in California has brought on national attention. The despondent parents had made statements to the effect that if the kidnapper returned the child unharmed, there would be no repercussions. Police agencies throughout the country were alerted and so intensive was the hunt in California that one mother of an infant finally got an identity card from the police because she had been embarrassed and intimidated so often in public.

Regardless of any statements of "no repercussions," kidnapping is a violation of the Federal law, punishable by death—especially if the victim is white.

It is not the same if the victim is a Negro. The recent case of Emmett Till in Mississippi has proved this to the world again. He was kidnapped from his grandfather's home and lynched by two white men. But they were freed on the murder and lynch charge because the court accepted the white defense that the battered and mutilated body couldn't be identified. There have been cases where no one had any clues that the FBI could start with. But they have found evidence of guilt without any doubt from a hair, a footprint, a scrap of cloth. The FBI refused to enter this case regardless of the crime, regardless of the brutality, regardless of a mother's grief. Kidnapping is covered by the Federal law—but not for a 14-year-old Negro boy whose name was Emmett Till.

THE CREDIT BOOM

Government and business men are worried about the extent of credit-buying by the large majority of the American people. Their figures show that year by year the total amounts of credit extended is growing faster than the income of the people. They are taking measures designed to curb easy credit to some extent, but, on the other hand, they are afraid that if credit is cut off, the so-called business boom will collapse.

Many of the business men think that people asking for credit, or buying on long-term payment deals are doing so out of confidence in the future. Let us see.

A man who has, let us say, \$2,000 in cash and is looking for a house, buys not on the basis of what his time payments will be, but on the basis of how big a house can he get for \$2,000 down. Similarly a man out looking for a car takes his old one into a dealer and finds out how new a car he can get with the old one as a down payment. Car payments today are about equal to their monthly depreciation. Three-year loan deals on cars are not uncommon. The radio, TV set, new refrigerator, stove, washer or other appliance is bought with the same thing in mind. These are all things that the average person wants and needs, yet does not have the cash to buy outright.

The result is that the average person's wages go entirely for food and time payments of one sort or another. When the situation gets too bad, a loan shark can be found to take over all your payments, consolidate them and then all of your money goes to him instead of several.

The average worker buys on credit, not through his confidence in the future or even his own ability to meet all of the time payments. He feels that he should enjoy the things his wages cannot buy, a new car, new home, TV, or other things. If he gets laid off and things get tough, then he loses the home, car and the other things. He can always rent a place and take a bus to work. He feels he has nothing to lose.

WHOSE HEART ATTACK?

President Eisenhower's heart attack caused a Wall Street crash that lost \$13 billion for investors in common stocks.

It is a sad commentary that the capitalists who control this wealth are so very nervous about their own future that the health of a single individual can be so vital to the American economy.

We can understand the panic of the capitalist class. But too few realize the panic of the labor bureaucracy who are their partners.

Walter Reuther, president of the CIO, states his views as follows: "International matters are very delicate and no one else can pick up the threads of personal contacts he (the President) began to weave at the Geneva Conference."

Thus both Capital and the Labor Bureaucracy are united in the misconception that the fate of humanity rests on any single individual.

STRIKES, CONTRACTS & CONDITIONS

They really put the pressure on you to get more coal out in the last hours of a shift. That's their profits. But what gets me is who gets the credit for it all. You hear the foreman telling his boss how much coal he got out. More likely than not, he was asleep while we were sweating it out. The crew doesn't get credit. The crew doesn't get anything. You get paid little enough wage, and that gets taken away in seen and unseen taxes. It looks to me like the miners are going back more and more. We need some good leadership more than ever.

Miner Fairmont, W. Va.

There's a terrific push for production. I don't know what it is but the company is pushing to get things out. Maybe they expect something bad, maybe a war or something. Whichever it is, the company wants to beat it now.

Auto Worker Detroit

From the two strikes in my plant, I can tell you that the skilled workers may have taken the initiative, but the production workers kept the picket line going. They were the ones who spoke at the meetings and not about dollars and cents. The production workers were responsible for both strikes.

GM Worker Detroit

There's unrest even among the skilled workers, but the way I see it, they're just interested in more money. They're already working seven days a week and GAW doesn't mean anything to them. Since we had that skilled workers wildcat in my shop, I asked one of them about it and he said they're angry about the union leadership too. They were riled up about the superintendent crossing the line and pleading with them personally to go back to work too.

Chrysler Production Worker Detroit

I don't know if the person who wrote that article about the wildcat at General Motors (Sept. 21), knows it, but exactly the same thing is happening at Motor Products Corp., down the street from where I work.

Chrysler Production Worker Detroit

(Editor's Note: See page 1.)

Readers'

The labor bureaucrats and capitalists are very conscious that they are engaged in a life-and-death struggle against the workers and are bringing every resource at their command to prevent the workers from uniting. Your paper shows that clearly. In this respect, Jerry Kegg's articles are a masterpiece.

Miner West Virginia

There is no worker who reads this paper, especially the last issue (Sept. 21), who cannot find himself in it, body and soul.

Four States, W. Va. Miner

Now it's not even "guilt by association" but "guilt by relationship." I didn't realize, though, that that's not a new angle, but a pretty old one. I knew that they used to terrorize whole families for the politics of one member in Hitler Germany, and in Russia.

But my mother was just recently telling me how much this whole business that's going on now in the United States reminded her of a stocking factory her brother worked in when she was quite young. They used to hire entire families in the place. She said that one of their favorite tricks was to fire the whole family, if they had something against one member of it. It was one of the most hated factories in the whole area. It sure stuck in her memory.

Committee Member West Virginia

Your paper shows the tremendous positive power of the working class and its complete and total opposition to modern society. It is shown not only in terms of the workers in the factories and mines in this country, but also on the international scene. The whole world is on the brink of a change, so tremendous in scope, that the world we know of bombs and oppression cannot but become a thing of the past.

Ex-GI Pennsylvania

I think Eisenhower must have had that heart attack to get out of running again next time. He knew he'd lose, and this way he won't have to run. What makes me burn is all that news about his treatment. Five specialists they have for him. But my next-door neighbor who just had an attack only had one doctor to look after him. And he's more of a man than Eisenhower however will ever be!

I sure didn't vote for him. There's two Republicans I know of—and they were the first ones who got laid off when the lay-offs hit down

here. I told them that would happen. I told them to watch those flying saucers, too. Those flying saucers are really bowls Eisenhower is throwing to fill up with beans for them.

Miner's Wife Maidesville, W. Va.

WAR & PEACE

When that American Senator who visited Russia says that the Russian workers don't oppose their leaders ("Two Worlds," Sept. 21), he's saying two things. He's telling the Russians not to expect any help from us if they do revolt and he's telling the Americans that if we go to war with Russia there's no difference between Russian workers and the bureaucrats who oppress them.

Intellectual New York

What gets me about Russia is that the big industries are the government there, too. America and Russia have different outward appearances, but they're the same underneath—the big industries run things. What started out as a classless society never approached it.

Reader, West Virginia

There was an article in your paper about taxation without representation. ("Worker's Journal," July 8.) The way I see it, we haven't had representation for a long, long time. It's no use batting your head against the wall just on taxation. It's not just taxation. We don't have representation, real representation for the way people really feel on anything. The men that get elected really do very little. They follow patterns. But there's nothing really new in anything they do. Like the peace-talks. They say, "Just look at what wonderful things Ike's doing." He's not doing anything. They're just talking.

When I was little, I used to picture the big wheels sitting behind their doors turning out marvelous things. But when you grow up you find out they sit there and they're not doing anything.

Student Morgantown, W. Va.

Where I disagree with you, is that I think a lot of people swallow the stuff that's handed out to them in the newspapers. They vote for stuff, even though they don't live how they vote, or even think how they vote. As for me, I think I'd vote for Khrushchev before. I'd vote for Eisenhower! But some people have so much respect for what they read under some big name in a paper. Those guys usually work in N.Y. in an office

Views

someplace — read a little from another paper someplace else, and put it together as if they are telling you something new.

Ex-G.I.
West Virginia

My generation has learned a lot from experience. They don't pull the wool over our eyes very easily. If they think that giving the GI's a "free education" will produce a group that "owes them something," they're in for a surprise.

It's not that I'm afraid to die. But I just don't see any sense in another war. I think I really might end up in jail instead of a uniform next time.

Ex-G.I.
West Virginia

I think the American people could be got behind another war. Propaganda can do an awful lot. But I don't think it will be an atomic war. When those guys get together for their talks, it's like birds of a feather getting together. They want a war—but I think they'll find some way to agree to have just a "genral war." The atomic weapons are too spectacular, people are afraid of them. That's why I think they'll outlaw atomic war, like they outlawed poison gas and germ warfare. Then they can settle for just a general war.

Reader
West Virginia

What I look for next, now that they're talking about arms inspections, is that they might drop a few atomic bombs. If they did, it wouldn't go on too long. People would stop it.

Student
Morgantown, W. Va.

Peron's rule of Argentina is over and a military group is in command. None of us mourn his passing, but the question is: What role will the workers play in the new government?

Puzzled
Boston

NEGRO AMERICANS

They may say that those people in Africa and Morocco are backward and don't know what they're fighting for. They know very well what they're fighting for. They don't want to be slaves. They'd have slavery right here in this country if they could get away with it. As a matter of fact, I don't see much difference between what's going on over there in Kenya and what's happening down in Mississippi. We were down there on our vacation this summer, and I just don't know how

those people put up with it. I couldn't.

Miner's Wife
West Virginia

Where I work, the foreman excused the way that Mississippi trial went. He said, "Nobody could recognize that body. It's right that those two men were freed." The only Negro woman who works in my department told me, "What the foreman said made me mad but I couldn't argue with him. I thought they'd give those two men a day or two in jail. But to get off free—They're not going to get off as free as they think they are."

Young White Woman
Detroit

That mother sure has the breaks. Her husband is killed in the war where he is fighting for what we are supposed to have here, then his son is killed this way. It makes you doubt some things. The Federal Government could step in, but I guess they will take any loophole to stay out of it.

Young Negro Woman
Detroit

I turned out to hear Diggs at that rally, and I probably would again. But he didn't tell me anything I didn't know. What's he trying to do? Take the NAACP and build it as his machine just as Reuther has built his machine in the union?

Ford Worker
Detroit

When Eisenhower had that heart attack right after that acquittal down in Mississippi, I was wondering if that wasn't what caused it. He works so hard to throw all that bull around trying to convince the world Negroes are getting democracy and then those guys down there do something like that and spoil it all for him.

Student
Morgantown, W. Va.

The White people down in Mississippi think they have more power than the United States Government. And what they're getting away with down there shows it.

Negro Miner
West Virginia

What gets me about that trial are the grounds they used to throw out the conviction. I can't see how even the most prejudiced person could swallow something like that. It's so extreme, I don't see how anybody could take it, prejudiced or not.

England and America are both done for as far as preaching democracy. After what's happening in

England's colonies down there in Africa, and what goes on in America—they don't have a leg to stand on, in the eyes of the rest of the world.

Ex-GI
Morgantown, W. Va.

WOMEN

After reading in your column about the woman who bossed her neighborhood ("Just a Housewife," Aug. 5), I kept waiting for some conclusion as to how to get rid of her.

Working Woman
Los Angeles

My husband objected to keeping the newspapers in order in the front room even though he knew I worked hard to clean it up because we were expecting company. He was so uncooperative that next time we have company, I just won't clean up the house.

Housewife
Los Angeles

My husband and I have quit working overtime, we both nearly got sick. We made lots of money, but we couldn't stand to be with each other. We want to live a little while there's still time.

Working Woman
Los Angeles

My new neighbor told me how disgusted she is because her husband goes running around and she always has to stay home with her two young boys. She said she had his clothes all packed that he can take them and go if he wants but she is not going to be the one to leave.

Neighbor,
Detroit.

ABOUT NEWS & LETTERS

Your paper is the only one I know where the workers can express their own views on what they want and the only workers' paper divorced from any political party. Do you have an agent in Britain? There is surely a great need for it and no one in this country seems inclined to start such a paper. If there is anything a poor worker like myself can do for your worthy paper please let me know.

V. T., Southport
England

NEWS & LETTERS is published every two weeks by News & Letters, at 3067 Grand River, Detroit 4, Mich., TYler 8-7053. Editor: Charles Denby; Managing Editor: Saul Blackman. Subscription: \$2.50 for 36 issues. Single copy, 10c.

Notes from a Diary

TWO WORLDS

'UNDERGROUND WAYS'

Dorothy, a Negro miner's wife, was showing me an article about the Mau Mau in a magazine. She was very upset, not alone about Kenya, but about conditions in this country. So far as she could see, it is not only the British in Africa where the white man is using every barbaric device to keep himself in power and to perpetuate the slavery of the black man.

"They would do it here, if they could," she said. They do it in the South. They just use underground ways to do it, that's all."

The words, "underground ways," startled me. I looked at her as she continued with her story: "Once in a while it comes out in the open, like the lynching of the Chicago boy down in Mississippi. But I'm not talking about that. I am talking about what the white man does to the black man down there every single day of the year, every year of his life.

"We went to visit our folks down in Alabama this year and we almost got killed. A white woman driver was trying to push us off the road. Though it was a wide, four-lane highway with little traffic on it, she came so close to our car that we would have landed in a ditch if we hadn't stopped the car. My husband wanted to get out and fight, but I said, What's the use? She only has to yell 'rape' or something. They have their sneaky, underground ways."

ON BOTH SIDES OF THE IRON CURTAIN

As I listened to Dorothy, I began to contrast the ease with which she moved from subject to subject, while I had not been able to broach the subject I had come to discuss—a book on Karl Marx, the founder of the modern working class movement.

I was particularly struck by her expression, "underground ways," because a great conspiracy is also afoot on both sides of the Iron Curtain to transform Marxism, the theory of the liberation of the working class, into its complete opposite, a theory of exploitation and tyranny.

The Russian Government, on its side, spends millions trying to pin the label of "Russian Communism" to the doctrine of Karl Marx. The American Government is helping Russia on this side of the Atlantic. In all its laws and propaganda it also deals with the two opposites, Marxism and Russian Communism, as if they were one and the same thing.

Nothing could be further from the truth, but the truth is the last concern of the political leaders on either side of the Iron Curtain.

The struggle for world domination, in which these two poles of world capital are engaged, cannot occur by arms alone. They must try to win the mind of man.

Russia takes incredible care and patience to claim Marxism. Just as the labor bureaucracy in America is always evading the answer how it came to be and, instead, tells you what the CIO was when it challenged the rule of G.M., Ford, U.S. Steel, to change the industrial face of America. So the Russian bureaucrats turn from questions about their present barbarism and tell you how, in 1917, the liberating ideas of Marxism helped the people overthrow Tsarism and establish their own workers' state. But this is 1955, not 1917, and Russia now is the greatest tyranny on earth.

TWISTED TO FIT

Here, the American Government plays its two-faced role. Knowing that the American worker has no use whatever for Russian Communism, it pins that label on Marxism. But it is Marxism towards which the workers are instinctively moving in fighting for new human relations with their fellow men, thus to establish a new society free from exploitation and war.

On the other side of the Atlantic, however, the State Department knows that the people of Western Europe and of the colonial world, totally reject capitalism and the two world wars it has brought them in a single lifetime. Accordingly, for overseas consumption, the State Department publishes pamphlets in which it claims that America is not "really" capitalist any longer, but has gone "beyond capitalism." If anyone uttered such words here, they could easily land in jail.

In all this the American intellectuals, who are not on the Government payroll, are playing a sorry role indeed. Whether as paid or unpaid journalistic hacks, or as scholars issuing weighty tomes with hundreds of pages, called objective studies, they conspire to link the names of Karl Marx with the Communist totalitarian rulers. (For example, see *Socialism in American Life*, two volumes of 1351 pages, published in 1952 by Princeton University.)

It is this conspiracy which is keeping the name and doctrines of Karl Marx hidden from the American workers. That is why the audiences I am speaking to now are most incensed against the "underground ways" which keeps the knowledge of workers' struggles and workers' thinking for the past 100 years, stored away where the people of today cannot see them.

NEGRO NEWS

The Way Of The World

Millions of American Negroes are wondering where are we going today. That is because of the leaders they follow have not made up their minds like the old leaders who said things that would happen long years ago and it still stands out.

LEADERS OF TODAY

Leaders of today never think of anything to improve the group unless it is to help out the rich men or the white man or a big company which has poor people work for them.

We have union leaders to go into the office and work out a problem to help the working people out. But instead of helping the workers, they come out with something whereby they have divided the unions by helping the skilled worker to draw a much higher paid salary than the production worker, and a higher paid death insurance.

Then the president of the union takes his main leaders and goes and signs a contract under the nose of the worker

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do you think the worker should do about such unions? I think they should get rid of the old unions and get a new union.

I was reading in the daily paper about the recent lynching and murder of the 14-year-old boy. I saw where someone had written a letter to the President of the United States to do something about the murder of that Chicago colored boy, and it said that the president said let the State of Mississippi handle it because it is a state problem. But I think they said that because they do not want to lose votes in Mississippi in the next election because they know that Negroes can't vote the next election. This is why I am saying that some white people are not for the colored people at all when it comes to something like killing a white person for killing a Negro without any cause.

WE MUST FIGHT

I can't see how white people can do such low down things to colored people, like take them out to lynch and murder for nothing, and then think we colored people should not do anything about it.

But they are wrong for thinking that we should not bring up a case against the whites. We know that we are here to stay and we must fight.

The White World

DETROIT.—There is only one Negro woman working in my department. She brought in that JET picture of Emmett Till's battered body. One white girl, an ex-WAC, said right out, "Those men should be hung." Most of the other white workers, however, were making excuses. One woman said, "That's a mess but no one could recognize that." Another woman said, "Well, they say that more than a whistle was involved, you know. And the body is no unrecognizable."

I feel that the only way to reach these white women who use such excuses so that they can be on the side of those white men, is what was said at the trial and what Diggs reported. **What mother in this world wants to believe that her son is dead and not coming home any more?** If there was any glimmer of hope that her son's alive a mother would cling to that.

I remember, during the war, when the fellows were reported killed or missing the parents just would not believe it. They'd keep hoping that their sons would come home.

It's the same thing here. As Diggs said, if it isn't her son, then where is Emmett Till?

—Young White Woman

The Terrible Shame of America

(Continued from Page 1) time. But when these things happen we can't get anything from either party. He should have included the labor leaders who always wave the flag for civil rights but when it comes to action they're as quiet as they have been on the Till case and the other cases that are now happening regularly.

When a crime like this occurs, these trade unionists and self-styled liberals say, "Isn't it a shame" and they make a small statement and they give a few hundred dollars. As Walter Reuther and Carl Stellato did, that's supposed to satisfy the Negro people and the demands for human justice.

Ten years ago you would have seen hundreds of white trade unionists and radicals and liberals at a protest rally such as this. There was no sight of them. It was hard to count more than a dozen whites. Was it worse when these things happened ten years ago? Is it less terrible when such crimes are committed today?

Diggs said: We don't want outsiders exploiting this case for their own purposes. We'll solve it—and people in the audience shouted "Ourselves"—but Diggs concluded "through democratic procedures."

The terror arises because the handwriting is on the wall for the wrecking of the

Detroit Meeting Protests Mississippi Lynching

Detroit — The NAACP called a protest meeting, on the Mississippi lynching of the 14-year-old Negro boy, Emmett Till, in Detroit Sept. 25.

Over 20,000 people responded to the call. As I watched these people try to jam themselves into a church seating only 2,000, I wondered about the conceptions in the minds of those who organized the meeting.

The crowd was very well dressed, very patient with the inefficiency and bad planning of the NAACP leaders and the various reverends that organized it. The people stayed around for hours, even after it was clear to everyone that they would not get into the meeting. Thousands who arrived by car were unable to find parking space and had to leave.

Detroit's Negro Congressman Diggs arrived an hour late escorted by the police and spoke to this meeting and another that was hastily organized to another full church up the street. He had little new to report to those who had been reading the press.

WHO PLANNED THIS MESS?

There was no question whatever about the motives of those who were attending these meetings. Seeing that

it was impossible to get into either of the churches, they milled about and discussed the case calmly among themselves. Some of the questions they were asking were: "Who is responsible for this mess? We should have Briggs Stadium or meet at the Olympia Arena."

When ushers took up a collection on the streets, many were generous in their contributions. Yet it is impossible not to question the motives of those who organized the demonstration. Did they believe that so few would response to the call, that a small church would be large enough?

MONEY—BUT FOR WHAT?

The NAACP got a very good collection out of it. One contribution alone was for \$5,000. They failed to say

how it was to be used to help the case. But the people who gave the money were making their own kind of demonstration.

Congressman Diggs had little to offer but a personal sit down on the White House lawn. No one was invited to sit with him.

The people who attended this demonstration are looking for better leadership than that. They expect more and they will get it.

Subscribe to NEWS & LETTERS

INDIGNANT HEART

By Matthew Ward

(Editor's Note: INDIGNANT HEART was first published in 1952. This serial has been specially prepared for NEWS & LETTERS. Here is the seventh installment.)

The next big plan was to get a job. Hines and I got work at Graham Paige. It was an independent factory then as were Dodge, Chrysler and DeSoto. We were very happy to get the jobs. It was a welcome thing: we could be here the rest of our lives and never go back to the South, on any condition except in case of death in the family. My job at Graham Paige was in the foundry.

I worked off and on for them from 1924 to 1925. I got fired in 1925 and the way I got fired was like this: Many workers would pass out. The boys would say, "The bear has got you." When we got real hot, we'd see little dots in front of us. We worked on a swing shift. We'd get through, after a continual half-running pace all day, fifteen minutes before the whistle. If we sat down we often caught the cramps in our legs and all over. We couldn't move, sometimes we had to wait fifteen or thirty minutes before we could get up and go home. One day, I told a pal that I felt a case of cramps coming on. I said I would get in a hot bath and try to keep them away. My pal said he would cover for me if the foreman came before the whistle blew.

The foreman came in. I was sitting on the bench in the wash-house and he said, "God damn it, get in your clothes and go back to work."

This was a few minutes before the closing whistle. If I had changed back into my clothes they were so dirty that I would have needed another bath. I went to my locker real slow. He cursed me and said if I didn't get dressed, and get on the job before the whistle blew, I wouldn't have a job. He cursed me some more. I stop-

ped and stood there. He said, "God damn, get out of those clothes."

I said, "These are my clothes. I'm going to keep them on." I had tried to talk nice in the beginning, but I got mad when he cursed me. The whistle blew and I went on home. The next day, a note to see personnel was in place of my time-card in the rack. They told me that the foreman had said to pay me off.

I said, "Let me tell you what happened."

They said, "We don't care what happened. If the foreman said you're out, you're out."

I never wanted to work for Ford. And I never did work there. Everyone talked about it, they said it was the house of murder. Every worker could identify Ford workers on the streetcars going home at night. Every worker who was asleep was working for Ford.

Everybody knew Ford was a man killing place. That always frightened me. I tried to stay away. But during the Depression, everything closed down once for two or three months. The paper came out asking for men for Ford. The next morning there was a stampede at Ford of two thousand men at five a.m. They were only hiring fifty or a hundred men. The agent came out and told us they were not hiring but nobody would leave. We thought it was a line to send us away and give jobs to those who remained. We stayed, pushing and shoving. The police rode up on horse and ran at the crowd hitting us with sticks. This didn't disperse the workers. The police called the Fire Department and they hooked up their hoses and shot cold water on us. It was the middle of winter. While we waited for the streetcars our clothes froze on us as hard as bricks. That's the first and last time I went to Ford to look for work.

(To Be Continued)

YOUTH

Working For Independence

By ANGELA TERRANO

I went into High School near the end of the second World War. In school then they talked a lot about "freedom" and "democracy" and "brotherhood." I was real proud to be an American. Not so much because I was born in this country but for what the country is supposed to stand for.

I don't know what they teach these days, but I don't think many can come out feeling that way any more. When something like the Emmett Till lynching takes place you begin to wonder.

SEPARATE BUT EQUAL

I grew up in an all white community. My close friends were white. Though I had a deep feeling that "every one is equal" I was completely separated from people of different races. I was so separated that I did not even know about the Harlem riots that took place in 1943. I didn't know what "Jim Crow" meant.

In some communities white

kids are still kept separated, but these days everybody knows what has happened in Mississippi. No matter how many excuses they make they know.

The people who make us most angry are the whites that use "no one could recognize the body" as the excuse for their own peace of mind for letting those white people go free. It is for themselves only. This way they don't have to see or remember the horrible picture of that boy's battered body.

ANGER NOT SHAME

I don't think I'll ever be able to forget it. Those two white men and women and all those white officials down in Mississippi, or wherever their type is, put no shame into me for being white. Those people are enemies and you don't waste shame on enemies. You fight them.

About one out of four high school graduates, also graduate from college.

Shop Talk

Los Angeles—Where I work there are mostly young girls and some older women. We were talking one day about that woman who threw her husband out of the house because he went on strike. She also threw milk in the union representative's face.

One woman said her husband told her that if that woman was his wife, he'd kick her all the way across the living room.

Then she went on to say, "How does that woman think they'll ever get anything unless they go on strike? And now that it's all over, her husband went back to her. What a panty-waist! If that was me, when she locked me out of the house, I'd just keep on going in the opposite direction."

All of us agreed with her, too.

—young Assembly Worker

Of every three who go to high school, only one will stay to graduate.

Students and Parents Oust Principal

West Virginia—There was a principal in a high school here, some time back, who picked on the children from the mining area for nothing. She had one male teacher in the school who was her "flunky." They were a real team.

One day the kids in his class locked the door while he was out, pulled down the shades and began to tear the room apart. They tore up everything while he pounded at the door. When they were through, they opened it. The whole class was put out of school. They were called back one by one, with their parents, to the principal's office.

She was after one thing. She insisted from each one that they tell who was responsible. She said until they told they wouldn't be back.

All the kids refused to tell. The parents also told their kids, right in front of the principal, not to tell.

One mother asked the principal if she knew what would happen to any of the kids who told? The other kid would knock the daylight

out of them. The principal assured her that her child would be protected in the school.

She said, "She can't stay in school forever. Your protection doesn't count for much when she goes home! And if anybody gets hurt, you will just be 'sorry.' But I'll have the heartache. My child isn't telling."

The kids didn't tell. Even the "good" kids who hadn't taken part in the affair refused to talk.

Eventually the principal broke down one girl. Her method was straight out of "cops and robbers" stories. She got the girl into her office without her parents and told her that everyone else had confessed. Until she told, too, she couldn't get back to school.

When the girl found out later how she had been tricked, she broke into tears.

The kids were called back to school a few at a time and one by one.

The kids and their parents stuck together and got the principal ousted from school the next year.

Just A Housewife

By Mrs. Martha Hunt

I have heard many working women say that it would be wonderful to stay home and keep house for a change, after working for 10 or 15 years. But it is also a wonderful experience to go to work after staying home for 10 years or so and raising a family.

A CHALLENGE

For the housewife who goes out to work for the first time, it is like facing a battle front and not knowing whether you are going to be able to survive or not. Any worker knows how nerve wracking it is to begin a new job. Generally, the confidence that you know the work overcomes the nervousness that you feel. But a woman who has not worked for 10 years is beginning all over again.

I have spent 10 years concentrating on homemaking. I am a skillful cook, a neat housekeeper, a seamstress, an expert on child care and a whiz at washing and ironing. These skills didn't help me get a job.

NEW PROBLEMS

Learning to do the new work was not the biggest problem I faced. The biggest problem was learning to get along with all the people I came in contact with.

Ordinarily, I would see only one or two new faces a day, a substitute bakery man, a salesman and perhaps a

new neighbor. But going out to work means I see new people all day long and work closely with them. It is the greatest contrast to the life I have known.

It is hard to get to know groups of people again. It is even harder to understand what working as a group means.

THIS IS THE TEST

To become part of a group of working women means I must know each woman personally, at least a little. More important than anything else, I want to be liked by not just a few of the girls but by most of them. I will be judged by the respect and consideration I show for others as well as by my ability to do a good job. After a year of working, if I measure up and am accepted by the girls, I will give myself a pat on the back.

Back Talk - -

Wife: "If I stay in this house another minute I'm going to go crazy."
Later that evening—

Wife: "I'd like to go to that Stanley party across the street."

Husband: "I don't go out without you. Why should you go out without me?"

Dry baking soda sprinkled over scorched food stuck to the pan will soften it and make it easy to remove.

WOMEN



To clean cut-glass, use a toothbrush and soapy water to which a few drops of ammonia have been added.

Working Woman Thinks Housewives Grow Dull

Los Angeles — It helps my point of view much more to work than to be at home confined with the children. When you're at home, you're too close to your own problems.

When you're working with other people, you can stand back and see yourself as others see you. You become more objective, not so engrossed in your own self.

Take the housewives in my neighborhood, all they talk about is their children and their children's problems. They don't seem to be interested in wanting to get out from their homes and learn anything about anything else.

Last year, when I took up lamp-shade making, I took a gal across the street. She watched us that one night but she wasn't much interested and didn't think she could do it. Housewives lose inter-

Life In A Miner's Family

West Virginia—Families are detached today. The man and the woman are miles apart. And the kids are detached, too.

In the old days, when I was a kid, we had plenty of rough times. Nobody wants to see those times come back. But we had something in those days I would like to see again. We had a real family. We were all part of it.

My dad came over to this country in 1898 and started in the mines. The work was plenty hard, but we were all part of it, somehow. Dad used to come home at 4:30. If he wasn't coming down the road at that time, nobody would say anything, but everybody would start to fidget. If it got to be 5:00 and

he still didn't come, all the kids would start walking down the road hoping to meet him. The first one that saw him would run and get his bucket. And maybe that wasn't a proud feeling! He always saved something from his bucket — an orange or piece of cake. And the first one to him would get it. He'd come home with black all over his face. And he'd pick us up and get black all over our faces, too. We thought that was great.

Fathers just don't seem as close to their kids as they used to be. When mine were small I'd sometimes ask my husband to sit with them, or do something for them, just to get them feeling closer together. But he'd say, "You are their mother." He seemed to feel it was sissy, or it wasn't his job.

My dad used to have real respect for his wife, too. Their lives were like one. It took me a long time to get used to the fact that I didn't always know where my husband would be going. Because mom always did. Now I know I was wrong. But the difference was that my husband thought it was all right for him to get away, but I could not. I know now that we both needed to get away once in a while. Men seem to think that they can change from the way men used to be, but women are supposed to stay the same.

I don't know what will bring the family together again. You can't go back to the old days. But somewhere along the line, we'll have to get back together again.

—Miner's Wife

This Is Your Life

I was born in Missouri about 50 miles south of St. Louis. My father was a farmer at the time. He was born in the same area. For at least four generations on my father's side we all lived in that same area as farmers. The land was not very productive and there was never any money in the family. A relative of mine was a Captain in the Union Army. I was always proud of that fact. Although Missouri was a Union State, it did not come easily to be on that side. My mother came from what is known as Pennsylvania Dutch farmers. My descent, I think, is French, Dutch, English and Irish, but I'm not too sure. I never really paid much attention to the subject.

From the time I was 12, I earned all my own money. Selling newspapers, cutting grass, hauling trash, caddying, etc. Until I was 17, I was an active member of the Presbyterian Church as was the rest of the family. Sports played quite a part in my life from the time I was 17 until I was 23. Baseball was my life in the summer and basketball in the winter.

I graduated high school in 1934. The Depression was on in full. I never had a real job until about four years later. I had a bakery route at one time; I worked digging ditches; I hauled coal; I hung wall paper. During this period I never averaged over five or six dollars a week.

About the end of this period, the direction of my life

changed. I had never before had even the slightest interest in political events.

First of all, I met an old Socialist who introduced me to his ideas. I accepted them immediately. The idea there could be a society where a person could have a job if he wanted it struck me very strongly. At this same time I did get a job washing bottles in a winery. I also met the CIO. We proceeded to organize the shop where I worked but I lost my job in the process. I was again unemployed for a year or so.

Then I got a job in a defense plant in 1940. I worked here going on two years. I was active in the union at the time. But one day I was dismissed "for being seen in the company of an alleged Communist." So help me, those were the actual words. Before it was all over it became a big union issue too.

I remember the investigation very vividly. I had to stand alone against the Government representatives and Army officers. I was just supposed to answer questions not to defend myself. At one time one of the Army officers started questioning me on my racial background as if that had anything to do with it. I didn't get the job back.

I then enlisted in the Army. I was in for four years. After the war I moved West where I soon got married and started raising a family. A few years ago I bought a lot and had a house built on it. Since the end of the war I have worked pretty steady.

An Appeal to Our Readers

Dear Reader,

News & Letters, which has been appearing but a short time, tries to be a very modest paper. It is not out to formulate a program for reshaping the world. It tries, in its own way, to be the medium through which Workers, Women Negroes and Youth are best able to express their thoughts, air their grievances, tell us how they think the world can be made a better place in which to live.

We do our utmost to listen to what other people have to say and not to tell other people what to do. That, if nothing else, distinguishes us from all other papers.

But News & Letters is a small paper. Its articles, letters, cartoons, its finances and its circulation are all carried on by working people, with no thought other than how they can help the paper.

We feel that you, the reader, want to see this paper succeed. You can help in many ways. First, you can sit down and write your story for publication. You can subscribe and get your friends to send in a subscription of \$2.50 for a year. You can make a financial contribution to help defray the costs of publication. You can see that your friends write for and circulate the paper.

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WORLD OUTLOOK

FRANCE—AT HOME AND ABROAD: IN THE GRIP OF VIOLENT CRISIS

Hundreds of thousands of French workers are covering France with slowdowns and wildcats and protest demonstrations. Thousands more have been locked out by furious employers.

This strike wave started last June among the shipyard workers of St. Nazaire, in the West of France, and is spreading South and East, embracing steel workers in the Moselle area, metal workers in Nantes, bus drivers and subway workers in Paris.

Two years ago in August, widespread strikes paralyzed France for months. The present strike wave is developing on a wider front and with more violence. Civil Guards have charged into workers' meetings with clubs and tear gas. Bitter fighting has broken out in the streets and workers have been killed as happened at Nantes.

New fighting has broken out in Morocco. The French generals rushed tanks and planes to "pacify" the natives. The fighting in Algiers the French officials refuse even to discuss. They walked out of the UN, when that body was finally pushed to raise the question. As far as the French leaders are concerned, North African Algiers is part of France.

At dawn, some days ago, the police in Paris arrested a well known Catholic newspaper man, Robert Barrat. He had come back from Algiers and had written that the Algerian "rebels" were patriots and not bandits. He compared them with the French underground fighters of World War II.

For this he was arrested and charged with "failure to denounce crimes comprising the security of the State." The Government was going to send him back to Algiers for a military trial.

Public protest forced the Government to back down and they released journalist Barrat on bail. But he is still under charge.

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF LABOR LEADERS

The Trades Union Congress of Great Britain met in 87th annual convention during the first week in September. The Trades Union Congress for England is what a combined AFL, CIO and independent unions' convention would be in the United States.

This was the background for the big labor meeting in England: The government of Sir Anthony Eden, just like the administration of President Eisenhower, is militant in its concern for the welfare of big business. The trade union leaders, just like the American leaders, are

militant in their concern to be "labor statesmen" and to stifle the workers with promises, bribes and threats. British workers, like American workers, have revolted in fierce wildcats against their conditions of labor and leadership, starting with the dockers and miners and covering all of industry.

The British labor leaders, at the Trades Union Congress, were concerned with two main problems: 1) How "to prevent or reduce interference with the even running of industrial life which, in the long run, effects workers more materially than the employer." 2) How to prevent workers from revolting against their leadership and joining different unions in protest.

In other words, the Trades Union Congress was called together to study how to prevent strikes and handcuff the workers.

REVENGE!

British miners have been carrying on a steady protest against their conditions with wildcats and slowdowns. At a time when government spokesmen are screaming for more coal production, the National Coal Board has lashed back at the miners by shutting down one mine in South Wales and threatening to close four more.

The National Union of Mineworkers in South Wales has approved the action of the National Coal Board.

FEELING THE PINCH

Anthony Eden's Tory government is cracking down on the workers and justifying it with the old statistics about wages going up higher than company profits and dividends. This is the old story that figures don't lie but liars figure.

Since the end of the war, dividends have gone up well over 60 percent but millions of British workers have to get by on six pounds a week and less (about \$17).

It isn't only the workers who are hurting. The middle class is hurting too. A middle-aged bank cashier is starting a new movement, a Middle Class Union. He says, "Before the war I was a 500 pound-a-year man. That was good pay. I had a car and I spent all my holidays abroad. Since the war my pay has gone up to 700 pounds, but if someone gave me a car I could not afford to run it and my holidays are spent with relatives. There are scores of thousands of people like me."

COPPER MINERS IN RHODESIA

Rhodesia is a very valuable colony of the British Empire because of the rich copper deposits. As is typical throughout Africa, the native miners are forced to do the heaviest labor under severe conditions and for abysmally low wages. For years now

they have been carrying on a steady struggle for recognition.

Not only have the African miners had to struggle against the colonial government and the mine management.

They have had to fight the European mineworkers who do the skilled jobs and rigidly exclude Africans from their union.

The African miners took the bold step of organizing their own union. Months ago they struck to force the upgrading of African miners to skilled work. The European Mineworkers' Union tried to break the strike and the African union both. They appealed to the white miners of South Africa for money in order to safeguard the segregation of workers.

The African union was so determined in their struggle that they finally forced the international trade union movement to give them behind-the-scenes support. The European Mineworkers have yielded and an agreement has just been reached with the authorities, and 1,200 miners will be upgraded to skilled work. The authorities and the European Mineworkers Union are digging in to break up the struggle of the unskilled workers who constitute the mass of African unions.

BLACK MAN'S JUSTICE WHITE MAN'S LAW

It has been pointed out that this column was in error two weeks ago (Sept. 21) in the story describing the brutal murder of a Kikuyu prisoner by two white police inspectors in Kenya. The account here stated that "the two killers continue on their way in immunity." It has been pointed out, instead, that the two officers were sentenced to 18 months at hard labor. This can hardly be called punishment for the crime of torture and murder.

COLONIAL "JUSTICE"

Here are further examples of colonial "justice."

1) In December, 1952, a nine-year-old Kikuyu girl was raped by a Forest Guard. She was taken to the hospital. The authorities did nothing to the man.

2) In January, 1953, Homeguards broke into the home of a Kikuyu woman who was eight months pregnant. One of the men beat her till she was unconscious. He was arrested. The District Officer tore up the charges and released the man.

3) In October, 1953, two Kenya police officers whipped an African teacher. He died. They were fined.

4) In February, 1954, a member of the Mau Mau was covered with paraffin by a police officer and set on fire. 5) In February, 1954, a Kikuyu woman was sentenced to death for the crime of owning seven bullets.